

**First Presbyterian Church  
Chippewa Falls, WI  
Worship Service  
November 15, 2020 – 10: 15 AM**

\*\*\*Regulars and visitors alike, thank you for being here and bringing your worship to share with us. To enhance everyone's worship experience, please silence your cell phones. Thanks for helping.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: To you, I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**All: As the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, Giver of every good gift.**

One: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**All: Look with favor upon us, O Lord, and be pleased with our praise and thanksgiving.**

One: Let us worship God!

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION:**

Gracious Creator, your day draws near with deliberate haste. We prepare ourselves for the providence that you promise to us in Christ. As we gather in this place to give you all praise and glory, fill us so with the Holy Spirit that we may discern your will. May we thereby be led to worship you in all that we do, with thanksgiving to Jesus who shows us the way.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

**All: O God, have mercy upon us as we confess our sin. Christ calls us stewards, but we squander your gifts. He gives us tasks to perform, yet we do as we please. He sends us to minister on behalf of those suffering; we are slow to respond until our own needs are met. He expects us to praise you in all that we do; we take all the credit for those things we do well. Forgive us and help us to be more obedient.**

One: Paul reminds us: "Since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." Therein lies our assurance of pardon.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

...Our Father, who art in Heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. AMEN

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:****Psalm 123**

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, until he has mercy upon us. Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

**GOSPEL:****Matthew 25: 14-30**

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents,<sup>1</sup> to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**SERMON:****“Dance Like No One Is Watching”****Rev. Gary Hedding****CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:****POSTLUDE:**